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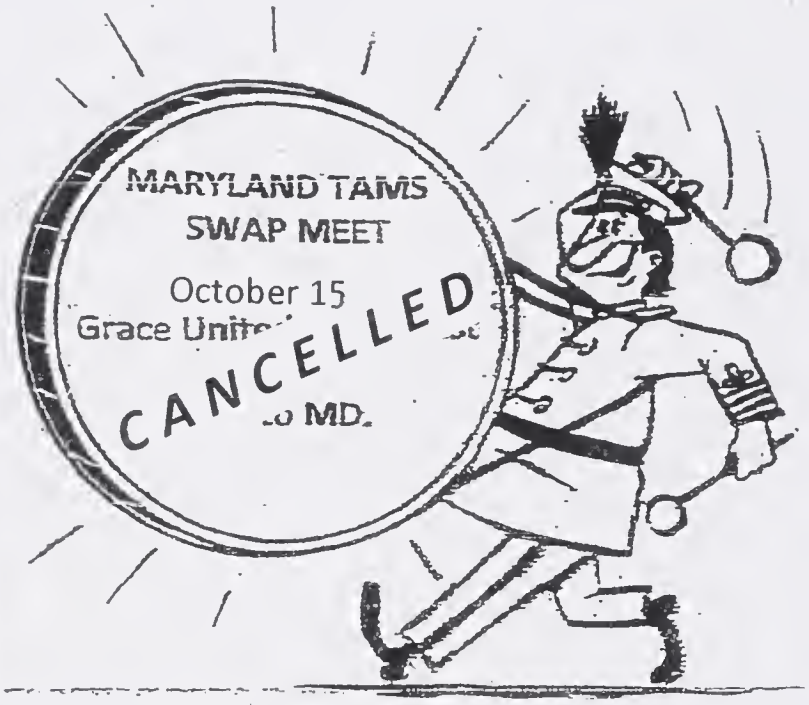


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# 17TH CENTURY LEAD CLOTH SEALS FROM ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

*Al Luckenbach and C. Jane Cox*

**Abstract**

Lead cloth seals or bale seals are recovered from colonial sites throughout the Chesapeake region. This paper reports on the 39 seals that have been recovered from early colonial sites throughout Anne Arundel County. Many of these seals are marked and reveal information about the origins of a cloth bale and the type of cloth it may have sealed, lending insight into the international trade of textiles in colonial Maryland. The marks also lend the archeologist a useful chronological tool, as these artifacts are often dated or contain the visage of the ruling monarch. Alnage marking of lead seals by the English government was abandoned in 1724, offering the archeologist a further dating tool. Additional study could elucidate personal preferences of colonists regarding their selection of cloth for clothing and interior decorations.

## Introduction

Lead cloth inspection seals are a relatively common artifact recovered from 17th century sites throughout the Chesapeake region and elsewhere. Often labeled with the misnomer "bale seals," these objects were, in fact, attached to the outside corner section of bolts of cloth to indicate that various inspections of the merchandise had occurred. They could indicate marks for governmental purposes such as quality control or that the material had been taxed, but also might represent local inspections by dyers, clothiers, weavers, or searchers (Egan 1994:1).

This paper reports on a number of seals which have been recovered from the town of Providence, a 17th century settlement on the banks of the Severn River in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, as well as some from the surrounding region. In the course of excavations conducted over the last twelve years, Anne Arundel County's *Lost Towns Project* has recovered a total of 39 of these objects. At Providence, 19 seals came from the Burle's Town Land (18AN826) home site, 8 came from Homewood's Lot (18AN871), and single examples were recovered from both the Town Neck site (18AN944) and Leavy Neck (18AN828). Other lead seals from the surrounding region have been recovered from Chaney's Hills (18AN1084), the Willson site (18AN1084), and London Town (18AN48).

The discussion and interpretations presented below are heavily based upon the 1994 work of Geoff Egan titled *Lead Cloth Seals and Related Items in the British Museum*. This work discusses the uses of lead seals in general, and carefully describes the more than 350 examples held by that institution. Since most seem to have been recovered from the Thames River in London, chronological information is usually not available. The study presented here adds contextual information to this artifact and considers lead seals that had served their intended purpose and were discarded by the end consumer of the cloth these seals once marked.

When their symbolism is decipherable, these durable artifacts provide invaluable information on the types of cloth being utilized, and potentially its geographical origins. Since some of these lead seals are also dated, they can also provide useful chronological information to the archeologist.

## Lead Cloth Seals in the 17th Century

The most usual form of a seal is two connected disks of lead that were bent over the corner of a bolt of cloth (where they could be easily seen), and clamped tight with a device that impressed the lead with various symbols, numerals, and letters. A riveted form of the seal seems to have been developed for marketing of commercial textiles (Figure 1). The 16th and 17th century found more elaborate four- and six-part seals, presumably to allow for more details to be placed on the stamp (Egan 1994:5).

The blank seals would usually be cast in a stone mold and varied in size. Smaller ones (<20 mm) might be more suited for application to lighter, more delicate fabrics, whereas larger seals might be used for coarser, heavier fabrics, such as sailcloth or decorative hangings (Egan 1994:4). Closer consideration of variations in size and weight might lead to a better understanding of what cloths were being imported and what their ultimate use might have been.

The use of lead seals as a mark of inspection for cloth products has great antiquity. Egan (1994) states that lead seals were in regular use by the early 1300s. The first reference to marking of cloth by the alnager (an officer of the Crown) is found in 1328 (Egan 1994:2). An alnage seal denotes governmental involvement in the inspection, not only for quality, but also for taxation. Alnage seals often

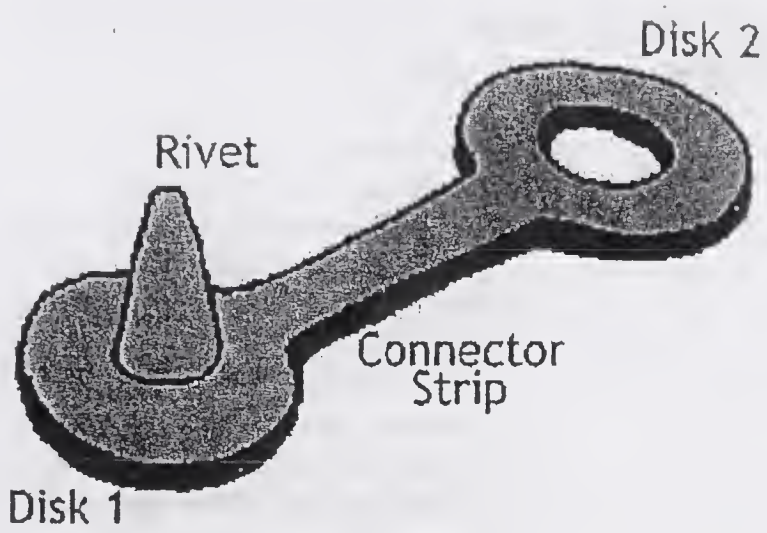



FIGURE 1. Typical lead cloth seal. Most decorations are found on the non-riveted side of Disk 1. (Adapted from Egan 1994:viii.)

bear information about the current monarch, thus they are useful chronological markers for archeologists. Frequently, alnage seals were produced with four parts, the first pair bearing previously impressed governmental symbols, while the second were impressed at the time of inspection on a more local level. The four-part seal seems to have been in common use by the 17th century (Egan 1994:5).

Alnage seals are also referred to as searchers seals. The seal was proof that an alnager had established by examination ('searching') that cloth met standards of quality prior to sale. This system also allowed for taxation (Egan 1994:1-3). Markings that suggest alnage applications include the crown, royal coats of arms, shields, portcullis decorations, *fleur-de-lis*, griffins or lions rampant, the heads of royalty, and those that specify a town name.

Marks indicative of clothier or weaver marks are more personal in nature and would be more akin to a maker's mark. A wide range of personal initials and marks are found on these seals, along with a location for noting the length, weight, and width of the textile. These marks may include "aftermarket" additions, in the form of hand scratched markings. Clothiers and weavers may have also acted on behalf of the government and functioned as searchers (Egan 1994:2).

The alnage system had become highly ineffective and corrupted by the 18th century, and was abolished in 1724. This demise may offer a significant dating tool for sites in colonial Maryland. Lead seals with markings suggesting alnage application would likely not be found on a site that was occupied after the first quarter of the 18th century. Lead seals with personal markings continue to be used through much of the 19th century for labeling purposes, intended primarily to impart information to local textile producers and traders (Egan 1994:4).

## The Sites

Seven sites in Anne Arundel County have yielded lead cloth seals as discussed in this study (Figure 2). The majority of the collection of seals originated at sites that were once part of Providence, the first European settlement in Anne Arundel County, founded in 1649 (Luckenbach 1995). Over the last twelve years, a total of eight sites have been discovered which were once parts of this hamlet-like settlement centered just north of present-day Annapolis on the Broadneck peninsula. Eight of these sites have been surface collected; six have been subject to formal excavations. Two of the excavated sites of Providence produced no lead seals—the Broadneck site and Swan Cove. The remaining four—Town Neck, Leavy Neck, Homewood's Lot, and Burle's Town Land—produced the assemblage of lead seals discussed below. We have also included in this study seals recovered from three sites discovered to the south of Providence, including Chancy's Hills, the Willson site, and London Town. Chaney's Hills and London Town are contemporaneous with the Providence sites, while the Willson site represents the early years of the 18th century, when the seal system was losing credibility.

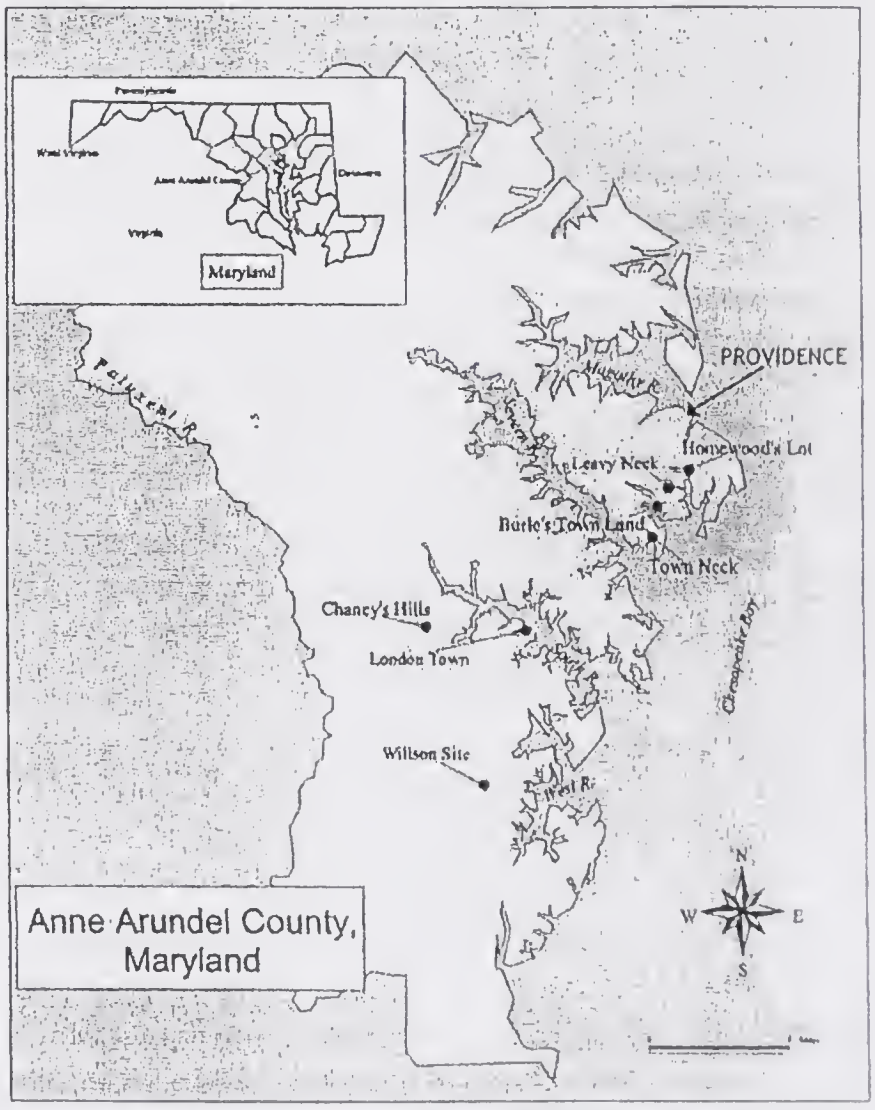



FIGURE 2. Location of sites with lead seals in Anne Arundel County.

The Town Neck site (18AN944, ca. 1661-1690) was the subject of testing that was virtually of a salvage nature (Beauregard et al. 1994; Luckenbach 1995; Goodwin and Baker 2000; Mintz and Moser 2002). Few units were dug, but a considerable amount of bulldozer-damaged feature contents was screened. These produced no seals, but a single example was recovered during a surface collection of the impacted area.

Recent excavations at Leavy Neck (18AN828, ca. 1660-1730) uncovered a substantial cellar hole. One lead seal was recovered from this feature, which appears to date to the third quarter of the seventeenth century.

The vast majority of seals discussed here originated from two sites—Burle's Town Land (ca. 1649-1676) where the excavation of 229 five-by-five-foot squares produced 19 examples, and Homewood's Lot (ca. 1649-mid 18th century) where 87 excavation units and 65 excavated or tested features produced eight seals.

Burle's Town Land (18AN826) was the home of Robert Burle, surveyor for the town of Providence. Excavations produced a rich assemblage of material from the third quarter of the 17th century. Characteristic of the Burle's Town Land assemblage was a noticeable influence of Dutch and continental materials, along with the expected assemblage of artifacts representative of English importation. Detailed tobacco pipe studies of the site indicate that Robert Burle had an extensive international trade network with a focus on Bristol, England and the Netherlands (Luckenbach 1994, 1995; Sharpe et al. 2002).

Occupation at Homewood's Lot (18AN871) began in 1649, with the first wave of Puritans moving from Virginia to Providence. The site was intensely and continuously occupied throughout the colonial period and into the 19th century (Gadsby and Callage 2002). Fortunately, numerous sealed and well-dated features offer snapshots into representative time periods at Homewood's Lot.

The three sites located outside of the Providence settlement are found south of the South River. London Town was a prominent colonial seaport founded in 1684. The town was an active base for shipping throughout the 17th and 18th century. By the Revolutionary War, the town had fallen into relative obscurity and was eclipsed by the government center of Annapolis (see Kerns 1999; Cox et al. 1997; Gibb and Persinger 1996). Six lead seals from the town site have been included in this study.

Richard Chaney and his descendants occupied Chaney's Hills from 1658 until 1707 (Callage et al. 1999, 2002). The site is located on a unique promontory along the western reaches of the South River. Eighty-five plowzone units were excavated which produced two lead seals.

Finally, the Willson site (1700-1725), located in the West River region of the county, produced three seals during the limited excavations of plowzone and the testing of three sealed domestic trash-filled features (Cox and Sharpe 2003).

## The Lead Seals

A total of 39 lead seals have been recovered from the sites described above (see Table 1). The seals range from 10 mm in diameter to 24 mm. Nearly all are circular in form, though two rectangular or square seals were recovered from Homewood's Lot and London Town. Two unique variations on the typical circular form have been recovered. A single star-shaped seal was recovered from Homewood's Lot and a unique double diamond-shaped seal was excavated at Burle's Town Land. Of these 39 seals, 18 have discernible designs or marks, 5 have cloth impressions, and 16 have no recognizable marking. Of those with markings, 9 exhibit markings that clearly associate the lead seal with the alnage system; three of these are dated. Four of the 39 are intact enough to determine that they are four-part seals, with two additional inner disks (seals #2, 3, 5, and 10).

## Lead Seals with Alnage Marks

The following discussion details the markings found on nine seals that are clearly royal in nature (Figures 3 and 4). Seal #1 was recovered from Burle's Town Land and has one side that is indecipherable, while the other has the impression **CAR/ SAY/ 1672**. Located in the plowzone near the main structure, the dated seal provided little other than a confirmation of the generally assumed site chronology. Since some seals had already been recovered at the site that bore geographical inscriptions like "Suffolk" or "Somerset," initial research on this object centered on locating a place named "Carsay"—to no avail. This artifact remained enigmatic for quite some time until it was finally determined that this seal bore a reference to the cloth usually known as "kersey," thus providing an interesting and unexpected insight into 17th century linguistic dialects.

Kersey was a cheap, coarse woolen cloth of twill weaves, which was often used for overcoats because it kept water out. The material was woven at Lancashire and in Yorkshire "where they were sometimes called Northern Dozens;" kerseys were also produced in Devon and Hampshire (Montgomery 1984:271-3, Egan 1994:75).

The discovery of this reference to "northern dozens" provided the breakthrough for deciphering another dated seal. Recovered from Homewood's Lot, seal #2 contained the inscription **DOZ/ 1677**. On the reverse, a possible 4-part arms (England?) with three *fleur-de-lis*'s is partially visible. After first assuming that this was a reference to quantity, it was now clear that the seal was describing an alternate name for kersey fabric.

The conclusion that the seals were from northern

TABLE 1. Lead cloth seals recovered in Anne Arundel County, Maryland

| SEAL # | PROVENIENCE | SIZE (MM) | SHAPE | MARKINGS | DISK 1, 2, ID (INNER DISKS), R (RIVET), C (CONNECTOR) | COMMENTS/ORIGIN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 826-13 | 14 | Circular | CAR / SAY / 1672 | 1, C | Alnage |
| 2 | 871-1 | 13 | Circular | DOZ / 1677 // 4-part banner with possible *fluer-de-lis* | 1, 2, ID, R | Alnage (Lancashire, Yorkshire, Devon or Hampshire) |
| 3 | 871-5 | 15 | Circular | PW / D / I // griffin with rouletted edge | 1, 2, ID, R, C | Alnage (Yorkshire or Somerset), D/I=one penny tax |
| 4 | 826-1 | 18 | Circular | Somerset PW | 1 | Alnage (Somerset) |
| 5 | 826-4 | 10 | Diamond | Suffolk 1674 // portcullis with crown | 1, 2, ID, R, C | Alnage (Suffolk) |
| 6 | 871-4 | 13 | Star-shaped | OF ENGLAND over a crown with C R underneath // M | 1, 2, R, C | Alnage, Charles II or later |
| 7 | 1084-1 | 16 | Circular | Crown over thistle / 3 | 1, 2, R, C | Alnage / Charles II |
| 8 | TN-1 | | | TB | | Alnage, TB initials of a London town warden/ possible dyer's seal? |
| 9 | 1188-1 | 15 | Circular | Head of Anne , rouletted edge with scratch marks | 1 | Alnage ca. 1702-1714 |
| 10 | 826-10 | 19 | Circular | TC / XX (opposite side has intense scratches but no discernible marks) | 1, 2, ID, R, C | XX may indicate a weight/ XX=20 lbs.? |
| 11 | 871-3 | 21 | Circular | W / XX // rings w/ a dot | 1 | Worsted? / XX=20 lbs.? |
| 12 | 826-3 | 20 | Circular | W | 1, R, C | |
| 13 | 826-12 | 13 | Circular | H III or HTTT or HM | 1, R, C | |
| 14 | 826-5 | 20 | Circular | I / Y / ? | 1, R | |
| 15 | 826-9 | 11 | Circular | indet. Dot sequence and poss. Y | 1 | |
| 16 | 871-8 | 14 | Rectangular | B / 2 | 1 | Thin (14 mm x 21 mm) |
| 17 | 48-5 | NA | Rectangular | 5/ H O N? / D F? | 1 | |
| 18 | 48-1 | 23 | Circular | Cross/ heart design or 'T' and 'A' | 1 | Very heavy, bent; possible mark on bent portion, continental Europe analogy |
| 19 | 48-3 | 19 | Circular | Possible star-like pattern | | |
| 20 | 871-6 | 21 | Circular | possible cloth impressions, possible star or *fluer-de-lis* on rivet side | 1, R, C | |
| 21 | 826-19 | 19 | Circular | Cloth impression | 2 | |
| 22 | 826-17 | 19 | Circular | Cloth impression | 2, C | |
| 23 | 826-8 | 24 | Circular | Cloth impression | 1, R, C | |
| 24 | 826-6 | 20 | Circular | Cloth impression | 1 | Fragment |
| 25 | 871-7 | 23 | Circular | Cloth impression, possible 'L' | 1, R, C | |
| 26 | 826-15 | 12 | Circular | None | 1, R | |
| 27 | 48-2 | 14 | Circular | None | 2 | |
| 28 | 826-7 | 16 | Circular | None | 1 | |
| 29 | 826-2 | 16 | Circular | None | 1, R | |
| 30 | 871-2 | 17 | Circular | None | 1 | |
| 31 | 48-4 | 18 | Circular | None | | |
| 32 | 826-14 | 20 | Circular | None | 2 | |
| 33 | 826-16 | 21 | Circular | None | | |
| 34 | 826-11 | 22 | Circular | None | 2 | |
| 35 | 1188-2 | NA | Circular | None | | Fragment |
| 36 | 1188-3 | NA | Fragment | None | | |
| 37 | 826-18 | NA | Fragment | None | C | |
| 38 | 48-6 | NA | Fragment | None | C | |
| 39 | 828-1 | NA | Fragment | None | | |

Seal #1: CAR
SAY
1674

Seal #2: DOZ
1677

SUFFOLK
1674

Seal #5:

portcullis
with crown

griffin

Seal #3:

P
W
D



Seal #4: SOMERSET
P
W

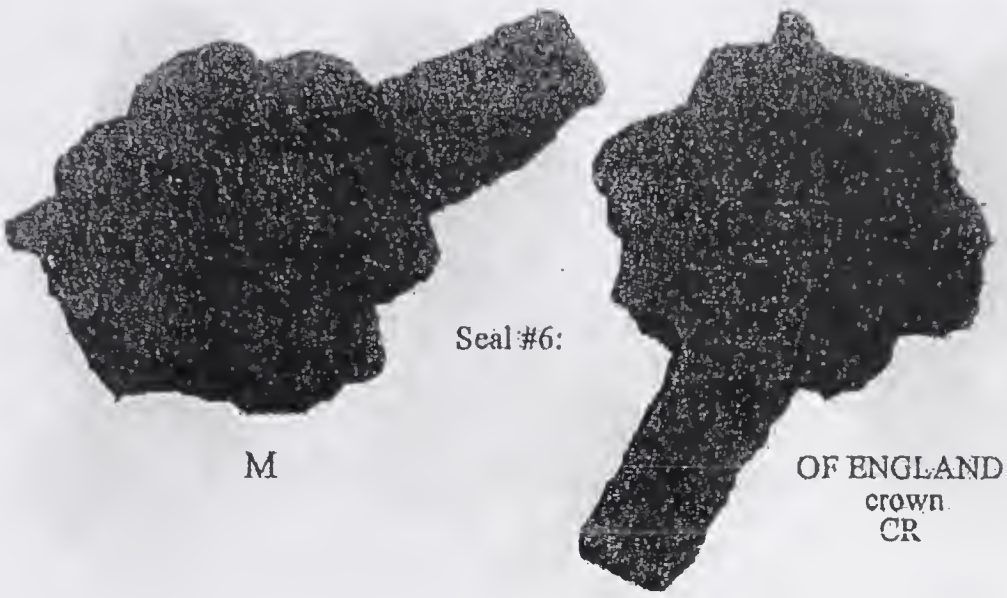
FIGURE 3. Lead seals with alnage markings. (Seal #1 = 14 mm; #2 = 13mm; #3 = 15 mm; #4 = 18 mm; #5 = 10 mm)

counties was further confirmed by seal #3—also recovered from Homewood's Lot. This seal had a lion rampant or griffin on one side and the inscription **PW** in large letters and **DZ** in small ones. Egan (1994:60) states that such heraldic seals usually date after the Reformation in 1660. This PW seal bore an obvious relationship to one from Burle's Town Land (seal #4) that read **PW** in the center and **SOMERSET** around the edge. Apparently "dozen" was a cloth term familiar in this county as well.

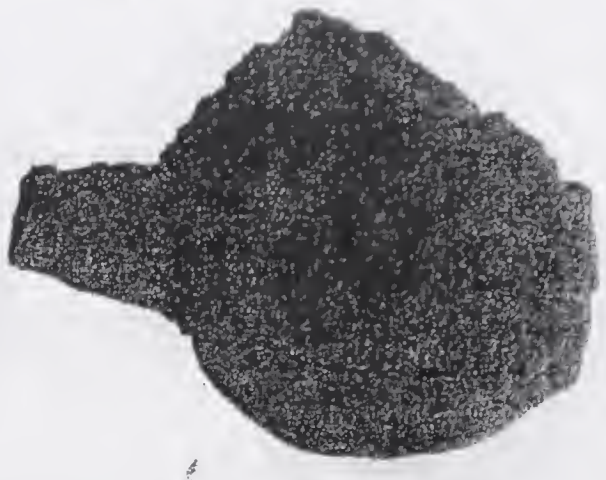
Placing the source of PW in Somerset led to an extremely rare occurrence—the ability to associate a lead cloth seal with a specific individual. During the mid-17th century, an absence of officially minted small change led to the production of large numbers of private token issues, usually in farthing and half penny denominations. Reference to Williamson's *Trade Tokens Issued in the Seventeenth Century in England, Wales, and Ireland, by Corporations, Merchants, Tradesmen, etc.* indicates a prolific number of tokens being issued during this period by a clothier named Peter Wells in Somerset which also bear the initials PW (Williamson 1970). Peter Wells, therefore, becomes the candidate most likely to have produced the Providence PW cloth seals as well.

Burle's Town Land produced the third dated example in seal #5. It bore the inscription **Suffolk/ 1674** on one side and a portcullis (castle gate) with a crown on the opposite side. This seal was the smallest recovered thus far in Anne Arundel County (10 mm) and was a double disk diamond- or lozenge-shaped seal. This was clearly an alnage seal as it had the obvious royal markings of the portcullis and crown.

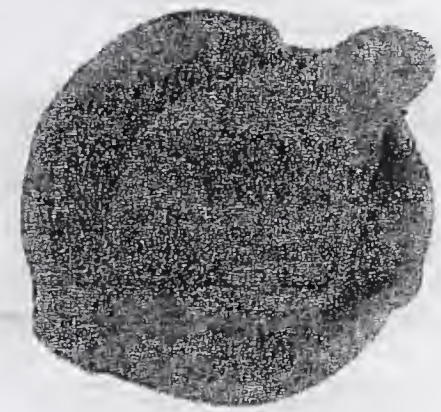
Another strangely configured alnage seal (#6) was found in conjunction with the crown motif at Homewood's Lot. This small (13 mm) star-shaped seal has one side showing a crowned **CR** for Charles II and the inscription **OF ENGLAND**. The reverse has an enigmatic script




Seal #6:



Seal #7: crown over thistle 3



Seal #8: T B

Seal #9: Head of Anne
(scratched) T Z

FIGURE 4. Lead seals with alnage markings. (Seal #6 = 13 mm; #7 = 16 mm; #8 = NA; #9 = 15 mm)

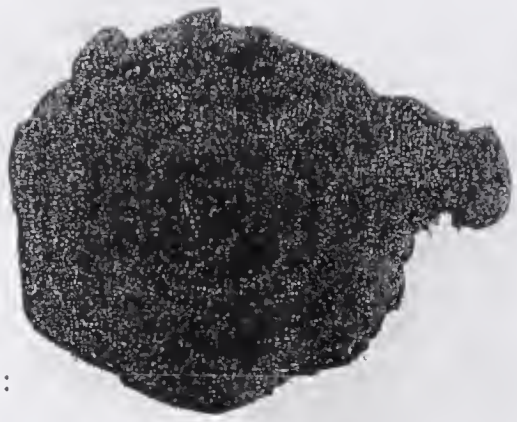
capital letter **M**. Another seal with the crown motif was recovered from Chaney's Hills (seal #7). This 16-mm seal has the crown-over-thistle motif with the number **3** next to it. A similar motif is sometimes seen in conjunction with the head of George I, but is also commonly associated with the reign of Charles II, an attribution that more closely fits the Chaney site's 17th century chronology.

Two letter initials were prominent on the readable section of the only cloth seal recovered from the Town Neck site. This seal (#8) bore the initials **TB** and an indecipherable inscription around it. Egan (1994:47) references an alnager with the initials TB who appears on numerous seals from both Essex and Suffolk counties during the reign of Charles I and the Commonwealth, thus the inscription on the TB seal may likely be Suffolk. Suffolk and Essex were mainly known for the production of colored cloths, broadcloths, and "says" (a grade of worsted cloth made from wool) that were widely exported. Egan (1994) states that these two counties were perhaps administered together for the alnage due to the similarities of their products. Alternatively, the Norwich worsted textiles occasionally had the town warden's initials included on the seal. TB is found on two such seals in Egan (1994) and are the initials of town warden Thomas Browne (ca. 1670).

The one clearly 18th century seal recovered in Anne Arundel County is alnage seal #9. A lead seal with the head of Anne and a rouletted edging was recovered at the Willson site. Queen Anne died in 1714, providing a useful TPQ. Notable scratched inscription overlies the head and appears to be a **T** and a **Z**. These scratch marks might also be the number **12**, or a reference to dozens. This "aftermarket" hand inscription is seen in conjunction with seals that are not specifically alnage seals and strongly suggests the uses for the alnage system extended well beyond the governmental applications of quality control and taxation. Such hand inscriptions imply that the weavers, transporters, and perhaps even the brokers for various textiles may have marked the seal after its initial inspection,

Seal #10: TC
XX

W
XX

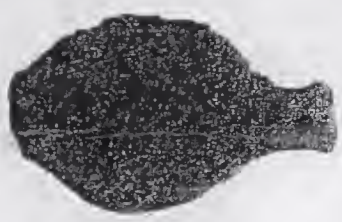


Seal #11: Rings with a center point

Seal #12: W

Seal #14: i or h(?)

Seal #15: dots? and poss. Y



Seal #13: H III

FIGURE 5. Lead seals with clothiers, weavers, dyers, and merchant markings.
(Seal #10 = 19 mm; #11 = 21 mm; #12 = 20 mm; #13 = 13 mm; #14 = 20 mm; #15 = 11 mm)

thereby using the alnage seals for their own purposes. The alnage system is known to be abolished by 1724, thus this 18th century example, recovered from an excavation unit immediately over a circa 1720s cellar hole, suggests that the seals with royal affiliations were still in circulation until the very end of the system.

### Clothiers, Weavers, Dyers, and Merchant Marks

The nine marks discussed below appear to have marks that are not directly indicative of the alnage system (Figures 5 and 6). These marks are personal in nature and resemble maker's marks found on other items traded during the colonial period.

A Burle's Town Land seal (#10) has the initials TC with an XX beneath it and may be a privy mark (Egan, pers. comm. 2003). A similar XX is found on a seal recovered from Homewood's Lot. This seal has a W over the XX (seal #11); the opposite side has several rings in relief with a point in the center. These concentric circles may be turning lines from the stone mold used to create the seal (Egan, pers. comm. 2003). These XX marks may be a part of a date. Alternatively, these are perfectly comparable in design to initialed merchant's seals that occasionally appear on wine bottles of the period, and the mark is seen on numerous examples of privy marks. The TC and the W that accompany the XX on these two examples may be the initials of the textile weavers.

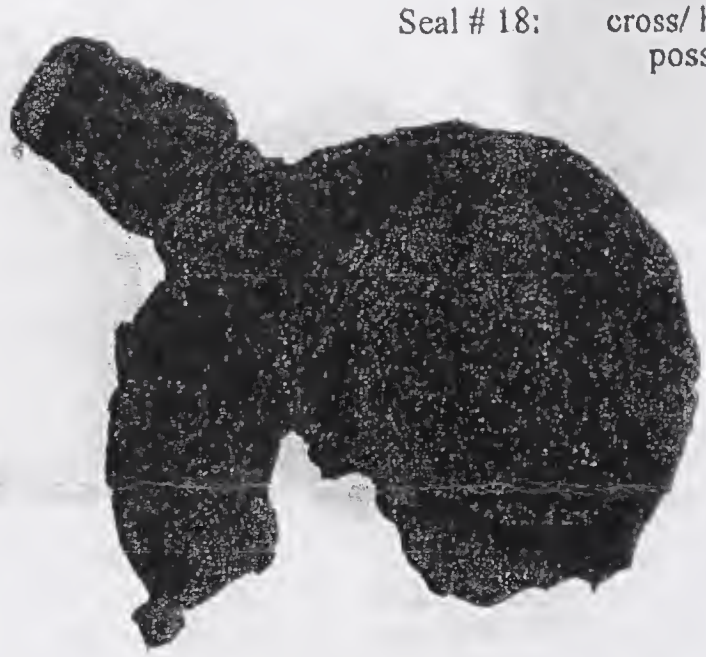
Four additional marks from Burle's Town Land have possible initials imprinted. Seal #12 exhibits a single incused W. No comparable examples of the text style were noted in Egan's (1994) work. Perhaps this single mark of W may indicate that the fabric was worsted, a type of woolen yarn or textile. Another seal that was difficult to decipher has a series of upright letters that probably read HIII (#13), though, depending upon the observer, the characters might instead read HTTT, or HM. The final marked seals from Burle's Town Land are difficult to attribute but may have the letter Y in common. One has a small Roman I followed by a faint scratched Y that is twice the height of the I (#14). The other has a faint series of

Seal #16: B 2

Seal #17: 5 HON DF

Seal # 18: cross/ heart design poss. T or A

Seal #19: poss. star-like pattern



Seal #20: poss. star or fluer-de-lis cloth impressions

FIGURE 6. Lead seals with clothiers, weavers, dyers, and merchant markings. (Seal #16 = rectangular, 14 mm; #17 = N/A; #18 = 23 mm; #19 = 19 mm; #20 = 21 mm)

dots with a possible Y (#15). These two seals both seem to have been marked by hand and are likely not alnage seals, but merchant seals.

Two square seals have a series of letters inscribed on them. On the Providence seal from Homewood's Lot (#16), only **B / 2** can bc seen, while the London Town example (#17) shows a similarly enigmatic series of letters deciphered as **5...HO (N?)...D (E or F)...**

Although barely decipherable, a relatively large cxample from London Town (18AN48) appears to bear a cross-and-heart design that may be continental European in origin (#18). Egan (1994: 116) shows vaguely similar examples from the British Museum that were made by the Hanseatic League. This London Town examplc is the only seal discovered thus far in Annc Arundcl County that could bc catcgorized as a non-English scal. The absence of non-English seals from Providenee and the surrounding region is notable given the amount of Dutch artifacts—particularly building materials like brick, floor tiles, and roof tiles—that have been recovered from these sites (Luckenbach 1995). While residents were aequiring domestic goods from a broad range of countries, it appears that cloth was coming primarily from England.

Seals #19 and #20 show very degraded surfaces and may have markings as noted on Figure 6, though their condition prevents positive attribution. Scal #20 does, however, have the clear impressions of the fabric it once sealed.

### Unmarked Lead Seals

Fivc otherwise unmarkcd seals showcd the clear imprint of cloth on thcir surfacc (Figurc 7). Interestingly,

seals #21 through 25, and #20 as noted above, are on the larger end of the size scale for seals recovered in Anne Arundel County, ranging from 19 mm to 23 mm. Logic suggests that large rolls of fabric, which would likely be a coarser weave, would have larger seals associated with them, providing more surface area and a deeper impression of weave upon the lead.

The remaining examples (#26 through 39) have no marks or are incomplete fragments. Measurements may be the only useful information to be gleaned from these samples.

## Conclusions

With one exception, all of the cloth seals described to this point are clearly English in origin. Although Egan's (1994) work on the seals at the British Museum demonstrates that foreign seals are fairly common in England, only the single example from London Town seems not to be from the mother country. This strongly suggests that the English were the primary supplier of cloth for the colony. The abundance of other Dutch trade materials in the Providence settlement suggests that fabrics from England were of a notable quality and may have been preferred by the colonists.

The presence and absence of lead cloth seals on colonial sites might also suggest levels of wealth. Abundant lead seals would indicate the occupant of the property had the means to acquire large bolts of cloth that would still have these inspection seals on them upon arrival in the colonies. We have found ample lead seals at Burle's Town Land and Homewood's Lot, both sites that were occupied by wealthy Providence residents with strong trade connections to England and the Netherlands (Luckenbach 1995; David Gadsby, personal communication). Perhaps other less well-off Providence residents such as planter William Neale at Leavy Neck, and artisan and planter Emmanuel Drew at Swan Cove, bought their textiles in smaller quantities, and therefore were not the ones to remove and discard the lead cloth seals from large bolts of cloth.

The distinction between alnage seals with overt royal imagery and merchant-type seals with personal markings provides a useful diagnostic for colonial sites. Alnage-specific markings should theoretically not be seen

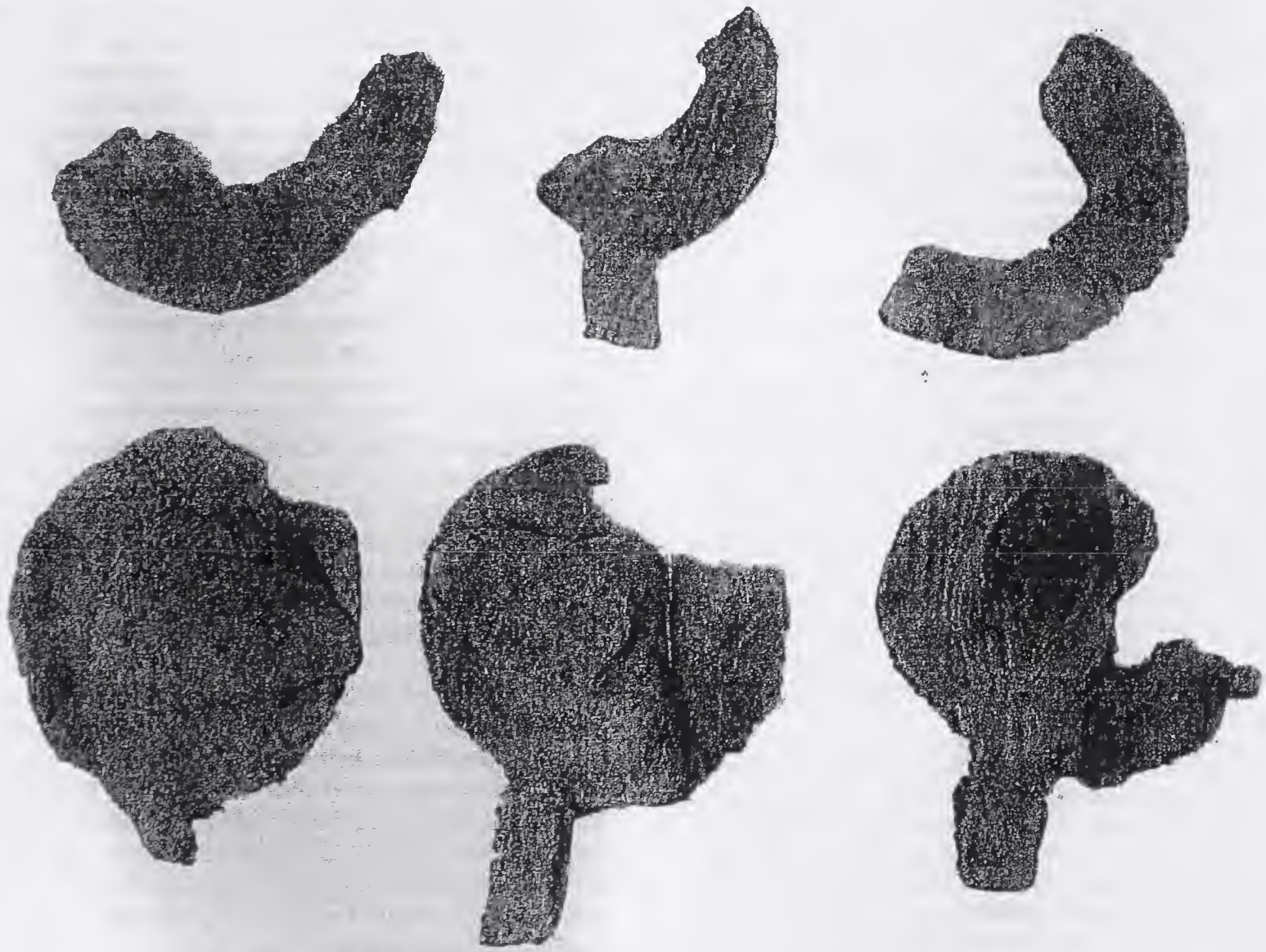


FIGURE 7. Lead cloth seals with cloth impressions. (Seals #20-25)

after 1724 when the system is abolished. Those that are dated or contain a monarch's bust provide an even more sensitive chronological indicator than coinage. While a coin may be in circulation for an indeterminate period of time, a bale of organic cloth and its associated seal has a limited lifespan.

Merchant-type markings lend insight into the trade practices for textiles in the colonies. Specialized and closer review of the fabric impressions should further our understanding of the types of textiles commonly traded. This will naturally lead to a better understanding of colonial clothing and interior decoration practices and preferences, adding a perspective to colonial life in Anne Arundel County one can almost touch.

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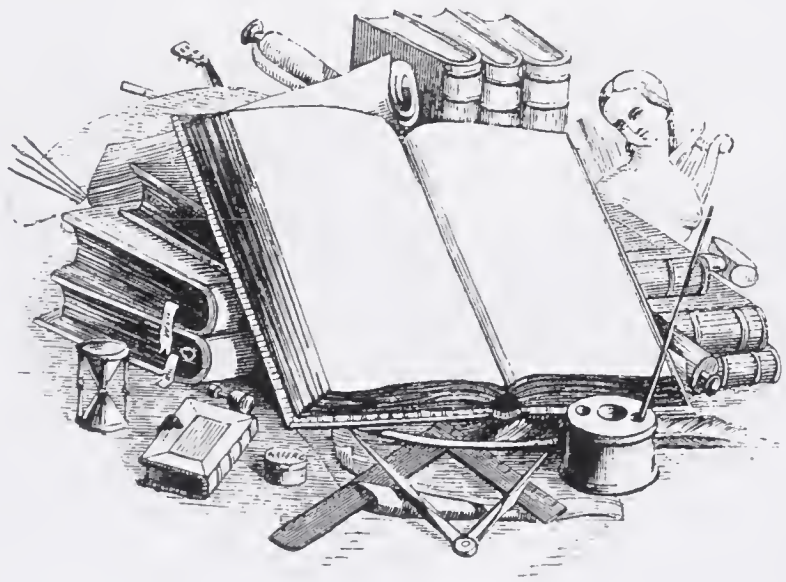
# *EDITOR'S NOTE*

*While reading through some old editions of the MARYLAND ARCHEOlOGICAL SOCIETY'S Journal I came across this article and felt that it would make an interesting topic for our MD TAMS Journal as well. This 17 Century Maryland subject was new to me and I think most Token collectors probably have little knowledge of this segment of Maryland history, or if we like to classify this in the broader field of State Exonumia.*

*Correspondence between your Editor and Mr. Claude Bowen, President of the ASM located in Laurel, Maryland concluded with Maryland TAMS being granted permission to re-print this article.*

*We gratefully accept.*



# NOTES FROM THE EASTERN SHORE

Bill Miller R-109

## Mystery Solved!

Those of us who collect cannery tokens know the frustration when trying to identify "maverick" tokens. Many people wind up with initial tokens in their collections that seem to defy attribution. One such token that has baffled collectors for years is the "E.O.B." token. The tokens have shown up on the Delmarva Peninsula, often with the "C.W.B." tokens of Charles Wesley Baker, Aberdeen, Maryland. One "E.O.B." token actually has "C.W.B." counter-stamped on its reverse. It was long suspected that "E.O.B.", like Baker, was from Harford County and had come to Delmarva to can tomatoes and other vegetables.

So who was "E.O.B."?

Years of searching directories yielded nothing. It was thought that perhaps the "E.O.B." striking was an error. The closest match to the initials found was E.C,Bayless, who operated out of Kenton, Delaware in 1907-1908. But "E.C.B." isn't "E.O.B.", so the mystery continued.

Finally, in the summer of 2015 a chance visit to the home of Joe Secrist, of Easton, MD, yielded the clue that solved the mystery. Joe has probably the largest collection of original tomato cans in the area. He had just returned from a festival in Vienna, MD where he was exhibiting cannery memorabilia. Joe showed me some of the cans he had exhibited and I was pleasantly surprised to see a Mount Vernon brand tomato can from E.O. Bayless, Kenton, Delaware! A very rare can, since Bayless had only operated the cannery for one year. The next year the cannery was operated by none other than C.W. Baker! Bayless and Baker both were from Aberdeen, and it is probable that Baker continued to use the "E.O.B." tokens after Bayless had left the business, even counter-stamping some of the tokens with his initials.

So the "E.O.B." tokens can be attributed to E.O. Bayless, who canned tomatoes at Kenton, Delaware in 1907-1908, and was from Aberdeen, Maryland. Bayless was most likely related to the Bayless family of canners that canned fruits and vegetables for many years in Harford County and the Delmarva peninsula.

Thanks go out to Dr. David Bryan, author of the Delaware Cannery List, to Joe Secrist, for allowing me to share the information about the Bayless can, and to Bernie Bodt, author of the Harford Canneries in Delaware.

# *The J.C.Lore Oyster Co. of Solomons, Maryland*

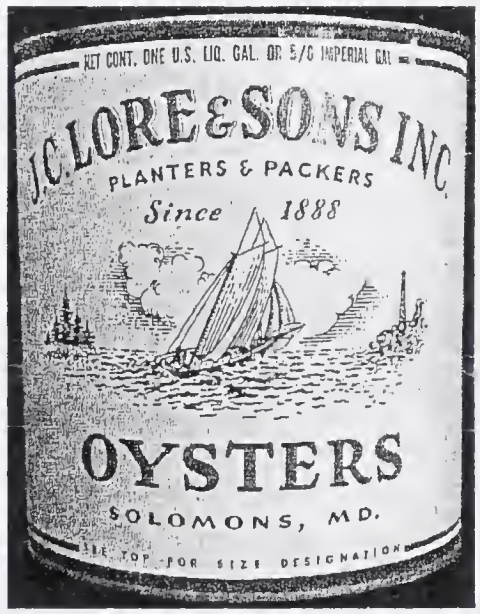
## *By W. Wallace Stone-R -47*

*While on a recent boat trip heading South on the Bay we stopped at Solomons Island for the night and a rest from the days trip. A visit to the Calvert Marine Museum the following morning proved to be an exceptional experience in more than one field of interest. Time spent at the otter house was both entertaining as well as a learning bonus. Otters are indeed very active and overly curious as to their surroundings. The curator of the museum filled us in on the short history of the Lore Oyster Packing company.*

*The J.C. Lore Company of Solomons , was founded by Joseph Cobb Lore ion 1888. At its peak it was one of the largest and most successful seafood packing companies in Southern Maryland. In 1922 Mr. Lore established his own Oyster Company, known simply as the J.C. Lore and Sons, Inc. After the second world war, their primary focus became the packing of oysters. The original Lore Oyster House was destroyed by the hurricane of 1933,(the same one which gave Ocean City MD. it's present inlet). The building was rebuilt in 1934. This building still stands today and has been enlarged several times over the years. At the peak years of the company as many as 65 people were employed, some full time others on a part time schedule.*

*Joseph's sons, J.C. Lore Jr. and G.I. Rupert Lore, managed the business jointly until the year 1961 as well as maintaining a small fleet of three boats for oystering, buying for canning. Over the years the Company has been involved in other ventures to supplement the canning income. These included were boat rentals, charter fishing, and a bait store. However after World War 11 the oyster industry began to change. Many local watermen and people hired as shuckers were able*

*to find jobs of better paying opportunity in the Military as well as State and County employment. By the end of 1978 The J.C. Lore and Sons would go out of business as a result of pollution, disease and some think, over harvesting. In the year 2001 the old Lore packing house was designated a National Historic Landmark and is now operated by the Calvert Marine Museum in Solomons.*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PLANTERS & PACKERS
Since 1888
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SOLOMONS, MD.
SEE TOP FOR SIZE DESIGNATION

J. C. Lore Gallon
Oyster Tin

*The famous Patuxent River oysters tin from J.C. Lore & Sons, Solomons, MD. This can is in great condition and has it top with it. A very desirable can for any collector. There are several different variations of cans from this company. The oyster house is now part of the Calvert Maritime Museum.*

# CAPTAIN WALTER FRANCIS DUKE, SON OF SAINT MARY'S COUNTY

**By Carl E. Neeley**

He was born in Leonardtown, Maryland August 6, 1921. He graduated from Saint Mary's Academy in 1940 where he played football and the violin, was president of the Drama Society and of his senior class.

That was prior to the United States' entry in to world war two. Not long after graduation Walter joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. After the United States entered the war Walter transferred to the US Army Air Corp. He received advanced flight training at Napier field in Dothan Alabama in May 1942, then in August 1942, as a second lieutenant, he was assigned to the 89th fighter squadron in the 80th fighter group at Mitchell field in Long Island where he flew the P47 Thunderbolt. It is said that during this time frame he was known to have flown over Saint Mary's County to buzz Leonardtown, once including St Aloysius Church during services.

Miss Verja Graham had been a border student at Saint Mary's Academy during his years there, becoming his 'best girl' and his accompanist at violin recitals. They were married on April 13, 1943. A week after the wedding Walter shipped out to India as a First Lieutenant.

In India he initially flew the P47 on patrol missions where it was reported that he never saw a Japanese aircraft. In December of 1943 he was assigned to the 459th fighter squadron, the Twin Dragons, in the 80th fighter group flying P38s. He received about 5 hours training on the P38 before going on his first combat mission. He named his fighter "Miss V" for his wife Verja. The squadron began operations primarily as bomber escort missions. Walter's first official air victory was on March 11, 1944. He received the DFC and was promoted to Captain. In a letter to his family on March 30, 1944 he noted that he had completed 52 missions. During the period from March 11, 1944 and June 6, 1944 Captain Duke was credited with the destruction of 19 enemy aircraft making him the squadron and Maryland's leading war ace.

On May 27 he received word that orders were to be cut for his return home. Back home the county made plans for "Duke Day" as a part of a planned bond drive event. On June 22, the eve of the planned celebration, word was

received that Captain Duke had gone missing on June 6th. The bond drive went on with over $25,000 in bonds being sold.

A squadron history describes that final mission where while returning the planes were jumped from above by many Oscars and Zeros. Having ample ammunition but insufficient fuel to fight, the main effort was 'shake them off and return home'. One member of the squadron was shot down. After getting clear, Captain Duke radioed that his wingman was missing and that he had sufficient fuel to circle back to make sure he wasn't in trouble. His wingman returned, but Captain Duke did not.

After the war a member of the 459th squadron accompanied by an interpreter went to various Japanese bases on an intelligence mission. During that mission he discovered that when Captain Duke retuned to search for his wingman he was jumped by a flight of Zeros. He surprised the Zeros by turning in to them and downed three of them before being shot down himself. He was just 22.

The squadron history credits Captain Duke with 10 Japanese aircraft destroyed in the air and 9 Japanese aircraft destroyed on the ground making him the leading CBI Ace. In addition there were 9 other probably destroyed or damaged and finally, on the day of his loss, he downed 3 more.

Captain Duke's military awards include the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak leaf clusters, the Purple Heart, the American Defense Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the Asia/Pacific Area Service Medal, the Canadian War Medal and the British Burma Star. His unit received two Distinguished Unit Citations.

Captain Duke remained missing for 68 years, 1944-2012. In 2012 his family was notified that his plane with remains had been found. They still await the completion of the verification process and the return of his remains for internment in the family plot in the Old St Aloysius Cemetery.

The terminal at the Saint Mary's Regional Airport is named 'Captain Walter Francis Duke Airport Terminal'. A new elementary school is named 'Captain Walter Francis Duke Elementary School' It has a display dedicated to Captain Duke which includes his military awards and there is large model of a P38 suspended from the ceiling in one of the hallways. The school is a short way across a field from the Duke family plot in the cemetery.

A medal has been struck to commemorate Captain Duke. It came about as a result of conversation about Captain Duke between two hunters in the 7th district of St Mary's County. One was a local man and the other the head of a business that dealt in commemoratives. The latter took an interest in the issue and the medal resulted. Struck in the manner of challenge coins it is 1 3/4 inch 'antique brass' with hand applied color high lights. The obverse portrays Captain Duke in flight gear in the cockpit of Miss V. The month and year of his birth and death appear above him. His name is above that and the squadron identity completes the circle below him, The logo of the 10th air force is in front of him. The obverse shows a rendering of his aircraft with 'Son of Saint Mary's County' above and 'Maryland's Top Ace' below. The design was prepared by C. Forbes, Inc. of Richmond and it was struck in a quantity of "around 100" with copies presented to family members and others made available for sale to the public through the town office of Leonardtown. C. Forbes, Inc. retains the dies.

Resources:
Spring 2013 Chronicles of St. Mary's
Fall 2013 Leonardtown Beacon
articles in The Enterprise and The County Times newspapers
several articles on the internet
phone conversations with a family member and Mr. C. Forbes.

Submitted by
Carl E. Neeley

Captain Walter Francis Duke, A.A.F

**Captain Walter Francis Duke, A.A.F**
1922 - 1944

On June 6, 1944, oce Army pilat Capt. Walter Froncis Duke of Leonordtown was shot dawn in combot over Burmo in World Wor II. He wos the #1 flying Ace of the 459th Squadron, but when he turned bock ta look for his wing mon, wos ombushed by Joponese planes. Copt. Duke's body wos never found and he was declared MIA at the age of 22.

In December of 2012, Copt. Duke's fomily was notified that o P-38 aircraft with numbers that matched his plone had been discavered ond that the remoins of his body moy hove been located in o jungle in the country known today os Myanmar. His fomily ond friends are now expecting that his remoins will be coming home soon. Walter was the san of Moyar Roland B. and Lillian Duke, olso of Leonardtawn.

Severol friends ond family members olsa petitianed the School Baard ta name the new elementory school in Leanordtown for Copt. Duke. On April 10, 2013 the decision was made ta da just thot. Ta learn more visit Leonordtown.samd.com.

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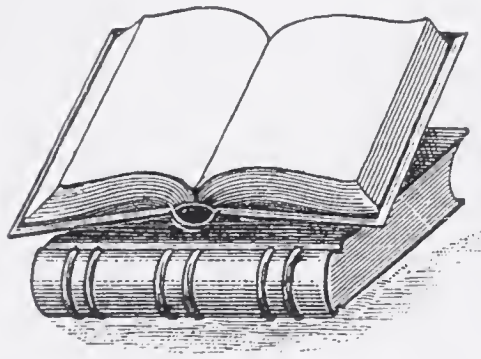

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